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Asian Church Leaders Meet March 18-27 in Indonesia

From March 18 to 27, Asian church leaders will meet in Indonesia to consider the common evangelistic task of the churches in East Asia and to decide what the ecumenical structure of the church in Asia will be in the future.

The conference is the result of a consultation in March, 1956, at Bangkok, Thailand, when leaders of national Christian councils, members of the International Missionary Council, and Asian churches belonging to the World Council of Churches, considered the problems of ecumenical cooperation in Asia and the relationships of churches and councils in Asia with the two world movements.

Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, points out that "an important factor in the whole discussion is that there is such a strong desire in Asian churches for closer cooperation between churches and councils in Asia. They are already exchanging personnel. One form in which this is done is the East Asia Council on Ecumenical Missions. The East Asia conference must look at various possibilities concerning the future. These possibilities range from a plan to have a fully-organized Asian Council of Churches to the more modest plan of strengthening the East Asia secretariat of the IMC and WCC."

The IMC and WCC set up the joint East Asia secretariat in 1950 and Dr. Rajah B. Manikam was appointed. Early last year he was elected Bishop of Tranquebar (Lutheran) in India, and Mr. Kyaw Than of Burma was appointed to serve until the East Asia conference.

The conference has been completely planned by the Asian committee. Plans have been made for an ecumenical Kirchentag to open the conference. It will be patterned after the famous German Church Day and is scheduled to be held in the Sports Stadium in Siantar. All Protestant churches along the east coast of Sumatra have been invited to take part in the Kirchentag.

During the 10-day conference delegates will survey the church in East Asia and its obligations, and consider the policy and structure the church should take. Speakers will include Bishop Manikam, Dr. J. Abineno of Indonesia, Bishop E. C. Sobrepena of the Philippines, Mr. M. M. Thomas of India, Dr. D. T. Niles of Ceylon and the Rev. Frank Short of Great Britain. On March 24 the delegates are scheduled to visit Tarutung, the headquarters of the Batak Church, Balige, the island of Samosir and the Simelungun area.

American mission board representatives appointed by the Division of Foreign Missions, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, to attend the meeting are: Dr. Alford Carleton, Boston, Mass., Congregational Christian Churches; Dr. Eugene L. Smith, New York, Methodist Church; and Dr. John Coventry Smith, New York, Presbyterian Church in the USA.

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Asia Church Leaders Meet Sept. 19-21 in Indonesia

From March 18 to 23, Asian church leaders will meet in Jakarta to consider the common evangelistic task of the churches in East Asia and to decide what the organizational structure of the church in Asia will be in the future.

The conference is the result of a consultation in Kyoto, 1970, at Bangkok, Thailand, when leaders of national Christian councils, members of the International Missionary Council, and Asian churches by invitation to the Asia Council of Churches, considered the implications of ecumenical cooperation in Asia and the relationships of churches and councils in Asia with the World ecumenicity.

Dr. M.A. Tinsac, the World Council secretary of the World Council of Churches, pointed out that "an important factor in the whole discussion is that there is such a strong desire in Asia churches for closer cooperation between churches and councils in Asia. They are slowly developing patterns of relationship. The form in which this is to be East Asia cannot be determined on Ecumenical Missions. The East Asia conference will look at various possibilities concerning the future. These possibilities range from a plan to have a fully-organized Asian Council of Churches to the more modest plan of strengthening the East Asia secretariat of the IMC and WCC."

The IMC and WCC set up the Joint East Asia secretariat in 1960 and in Bangkok, Thailand was established. Early last year he was elected Bishop of Trichinopoly (Lutheran) in India, and Dr. Chan Chun of Korea was appointed to serve until the East Asia conference.

The arrangements has been completely planned by the Asia committee. Plans have been made for an ecumenical Eucharist to open the conference. It will be performed after the famous German Cathedral and is scheduled to be held in the Sports Stadium in Jakarta. All Protestant churches along the east coast of Indonesia have been invited to make work in the Christmas.

During the Ecumenical dialogues will survey the church in East Asia and its relationships, and consider the policy and structure the church should take. Speakers will include Bishop Kuriakose, Dr. L. Abayomi of Indonesia, Bishop K. C. Sorensen of the Philippines, Mr. M. A. Thomas of India, Dr. C. Y. Hsiao of Taiwan and the Rev. Frank Short of Great Britain. On March 24 the delegates are scheduled to visit Tandjung, the birthplace of the batak Church, Samosir, the island of Toronit and the Simalungun area.

American mission board representatives assembled by the Division of Foreign Missions, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, to attend the meeting were Dr. Allyre Bertram, Boston, Mass., Congregational Christian Church; Dr. Eugene L. Smith, Nashville, Tennessee, and Dr. John Coventry Smith, New York, Presbyterian Church in the USA.

Dr. Charles Ranson, general secretary of the International Missionary Council, New York, and Dr. Erik W. Nielsen, IMC research secretary, London, will attend. Attending the conference for the World Council are Dr. Visser 't Hooft and associate general secretaries, Dr. Leslie E. Cooke and Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer.

Just before the conference, the National Council of Churches of Indonesia, in cooperation with the WCC, will hold an ecumenical conference on Problems of Rapid Social Change in the Countries of South East Asia. The meeting is set for March 12 to 16 at Nommensen University, Pematang Siantar, Sumatra. E.P.S., Geneva

NEAR EAST

Mission Work in Jordan and Egypt

British educational missionaries are returning to Jordan, but have not yet gone back into Egypt, according to a statement issued by the Rev. C. S. Milford, West Asia secretary of the Church Missionary Society.

Two of the Church Missionary Society missionaries have now been invited to return to Jordan and several workers for the Jerusalem and the East Mission have returned.

In Egypt, the institutions started by the CMS - two hospitals, two girls' schools and two welfare centers - are being carried on by the small Anglican church. Its clergy are also responsible for services in the Cathedral and the larger English church in Alexandria. The government has appointed a Christian as sequestrator, to take charge of the property and funds that were still legally in foreign ownership. He seems, Mr. Milford said, to be acting sympathetically.

At the time the fighting started, Egyptian church leaders were asked whether they felt that the continued presence of CMS missionaries were an embarrassment or a danger. The church asked the missionaries to stay as long as possible and they remained until ordered to leave by the Egyptian government. Missionaries also left Jordan because some national church leaders felt the British missionaries would endanger both themselves and their Arab fellow-Christians by remaining (see EPS Nos. 44 and 46, 1956).

E.P.S., Geneva

New Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem

The Archbishop of Canterbury has nominated the Right Rev. A. C. MacInnes as the Bishop in Jerusalem, succeeding the present bishop, the Right Rev. Weston Stewart, who resigned.

The new Anglican bishop, who is fifty-five, has been Bishop of Bedford since 1953. For twenty years he worked as a missionary for the Church Missionary Society in Palestine and was Archdeacon of Jerusalem before he was compelled to return to England after being seriously wounded in the bombardment of Jerusalem in 1948. Bishop MacInnes was for many years principal of the Bishop Gobat School in Jerusalem. His father was also Bishop in Jerusalem.

Bishop Stewart has spent thirty years in the diocese. He left Chelsea in 1926 to become chaplain of St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, and later became Archdeacon of Palestine, Syria and Trans-Jordan. In 1943 he was consecrated bishop. E.P.S., Geneva

Two WSCF Leadership Training Courses Held in Latin America

More than 100 persons attended two leadership training courses for student leaders in Central America and Mexico at the end of 1956 and early in 1957. The first course was at the Baptist College of Santa Ana, El Salvador, with sixty participants from five Central America countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The second course, attended by seventy delegates from fifteen Mexican cities, was held in the neighbourhood of the famous new cité universitaire in Mexico City.

The general theme for both courses was "The Vocation of Christian Students" and it was studied under the following headings: "Called to be members of the people of God", "Called to action in the world" (the university and civic life) and "Called personally". The course in Mexico City also included a section for theological students with its own program on the theme, "Our Pastoral Vocation".

Dr. Charles Parson, general secretary of the International Missionary Council, New York, and Dr. Erik W. Sjoblom, IMC research secretary, London, will attend. Participants in the conference for the World Council are Dr. Visser 't Hooft and executive general secretaries, Dr. Lamin E. Odebe and Dr. Robert S. Millmoor.

Just before the conference, the National Council of Churches of Indonesia, in cooperation with the WCC, will hold an ecumenical conference on problems of rapid social change in the Countries of South East Asia. The meeting is set for March 12 in the Nommensen University, Pematang Siantar, Sumatra. E.F.S., Geneva

NEAR EAST

Mission Work in Jordan and Egypt

British educational missionaries are returning to Jordan, but have not yet gone back into Egypt, according to a statement issued by the Rev. G. E. Miller, West Asia secretary of the Church Missionary Society.

Two of the Church Missionary Society missionaries have now been invited to return to Jordan and several workers for the Jerusalem and the East Mission have returned.

In Egypt, the institutions started by the CMS - two hospitals, two girls' schools and two welfare centers - are being carried on by the small Anglican church. It is also responsible for services in the Protestant and the larger English church in Alexandria. The government has appointed a Custodian to safeguard, or take charge of the property and funds that were still legally in foreign ownership. Mr. Miller, Mr. Miller said, to be acting sympathetically.

At the time the fighting started, Egyptian church leaders were asked whether they felt that the continued presence of CMS missionaries were an embarrassment or a danger. The church asked the missionaries to stay as long as possible and they remained until ordered to leave by the Egyptian government. Missionaries also left Jordan because some national church leaders felt the British mandate would endanger both themselves and their Arab fellow-Christians by remaining (see RNS Nos. 55 and 56, 1956). E.F.S., Geneva

New Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem

The Archbishop of Canterbury has nominated the Right Rev. A. G. Mantovani as the bishop in Jerusalem, succeeding the present bishop, the Right Rev. Reginald Gwynne, who resigned.

The new Anglican bishop, who is fifty-five, has been Bishop of Buckland since 1951. For twenty years he worked as a missionary for the Church Missionary Society in Palestine and was archdeacon of Jerusalem before he was consecrated to Buckland after being seriously wounded in the bombardment of Jerusalem in 1948. Bishop Mantovani was for many years principal of the Bishop Gobat School in Jerusalem. His father was also Bishop in Jerusalem.

Bishop Stewart has spent thirty years in the diocese. He left Cairo in 1950 to become chaplain of St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, and later became archdeacon of Palestine, Syria and Transjordan. In 1953 he was consecrated bishop. E.F.S., Geneva

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More than 100 persons attended two leadership training courses for student leaders in Central America and Mexico at the end of 1956 and early in 1957. The first course was held at the Spring College of Santa Ana, El Salvador, with sixty participants from five Central America countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama. The second course, attended by seventy delegates from Mexican colleges, was held in the neighborhood of the famous new city of Cuernavaca in Mexico City.

The general theme for both courses was "The Vocation of Christian Students" and it was studied under the following headings: "Called to be members of the people of God", "Called to action in the world (the university and study life)" and "Called personally". The course in Mexico City also included a section for theological students with its own program on the theme, "Our Pastoral Vocation".

Three leaders took part in the two courses. They were the Rev. Valdo Galland of Uruguay, associate general secretary of the WSCF; Professor Mauricio Lopez of Argentina, WSCF secretary for Latin America; and the Rev. Richard Shaull, general secretary of the Brazilian Student Christian Movement.

During the past five years the WSCF has held several leadership training courses for students from all or half of Latin America. To make possible greater student participation, it was decided to hold two consecutive conferences for more limited areas of Latin America. E.P.S., Geneva

BRAZIL — Conference on Social Change

(Campinas) - A group of sixty Protestants, mostly laymen, met at Presbyterian Seminary, Campinas, Brazil, Feb. 2-8, to discuss Christian Responsibility towards areas of Rapid Social Change. The Evangelical Confederation of Brazil sponsored the meeting which was an outgrowth of the first ecumenical conference on social questions held in Latin America in November, 1955 (see EPS No. 46, Dec. 16, 1955).

Dr. Benjamin Moraes, a leading Brazilian Presbyterian, was chairman of the conference. Mr. Waldo Cesar is executive secretary of the Evangelical Confederation's Department of Church and Society established at the earlier meeting.

Rural, industrial, and political life were the main topics discussed at the conference on Christian responsibility. Delegates included representatives of the government, industry, and labor as well as rural workers and some pastors.

Among the speakers was Colonel Daltro Sangos, a military school professor, who introduced the section on political life. The discussion of politics focused on the difference between the "old" and "new" Brazil - the traditional center of Brazil's cultural and governmental life on the eastern coast as opposed to the emergence of the formerly undeveloped interior. The role of students and the military in political agitation was discussed along with issues of paternalism and true democracy.

The section on industrialization and urban life covered a wide range of subjects from the adaptation of the rural worker to urban industrial life to the problems of working mothers. The role of the union, social legislation, the dignity of work, the living quarters of workers, and the relation of man to machine were some of the topics under consideration. Luis Carlos Weil was in charge of this section.

A rural pastor, the Rev. Joaquim Beato, introduced the section on rural life. Technical development and illiteracy were primary concerns in this area. As in all other discussions at Campinas conference, the role of the church in facing rapid social change and the relevancy of the Bible to the modern world were stressed. Dr. Marcos Perira told of UNESCO efforts in giving technical training.

"The Political and Social Implications of Christian Love" was the subject of the opening address by the Rev. Richard Shaull, who is general secretary of the Brazilian Student Christian Movement. The Rev. Jacques Maury of France, discussed the church and problems of rapid social change. Mr. Maury was touring Latin America as a member of the ecumenical youth team of the World Council of Churches and the World Council of Christian Education. Conference delegates who came from many parts of Brazil urged that other such meetings be held in other parts of the country. E.P.S., Geneva

GERMANY — Christian Approach to Communism

(Düsseldorf) - "Christendom and the Onslaught of Bolshevism" was the title of a series of lectures arranged by the churches in Düsseldorf, during which Dr. Helmuth Gollwitzer, professor of Theology at Bonn, pleaded for conversations between Christians and communists. He said that in these conversations the Christians would, as a matter of course, perceive communism to be a false road leading not to freedom but to serfdom. It would still remain a false road, even if the people in communist countries were better supplied with food and other commodities in future, he said. "The shackles on thought, the anti-religious propaganda, the brutal methods of government and the mass terror, the debasement of human beings to the status of marionettes or gramophone records - all this must be rejected without compromise," he said.

Christians should not merely ask themselves how they could protect themselves against

Other leaders took part in the two courses. They were the Rev. Vitor Galland of Argentina, associate general secretary of the WSCF; Professor Guanito Lopes de Argentina, WSCF secretary for Latin America; and the Rev. Richard Shaull, general secretary of the Brazilian Student Christian Movement.

During the past five years the WSCF has held several leadership training courses for students from all or half of Latin America. To make possible greater student participation, it was decided to hold two consecutive conferences for more limited areas of Latin America.

N.P.S., Geneva

BRAZIL

Conferences on Social Change

(Campinas) - A group of newly Presbyterians, mostly laymen, met at Presbyterian Seminary, Campinas, Brazil, Feb. 2-6, to discuss Christian Responsibility towards Areas of Rapid Social Change. The Evangelical Confederation of Brazil sponsored the meeting which was an outgrowth of the first ecumenical conference on social questions held in Latin America in November, 1955 (see ENS No. 16, Dec. 16, 1955).

Dr. Benjamin Moraes, a leading Brazilian Presbyterian, was chairman of the conference. Mr. Waldo Cesar is executive secretary of the Evangelical Confederation's Department of Church and Society established at the earlier meeting.

Rural, industrial, and political life were the main topics discussed in the conference on Christian responsibility. Delegates included representatives of the government, industry, and labor as well as rural workers and some pastors.

Among the speakers was Colonel Delino Carvalho, a military academy professor, who introduced the session on political life. The relevancies of politics learned on the difference between the "old" and "new" Brazil - the traditional center of Brazil's civil and governmental life on the eastern coast as opposed to the emergence of the currently underdeveloped interior. The role of students and the military in political life was discussed along with issues of nationalism and true democracy.

The section on industrialization and urban life covered a wide range of subjects from the adaptation of the rural worker to urban industrial life to the problems of housing workers. The role of the union, moral legislation, the dignity of work, the living quarters of workers, and the relation of man to machine were some of the topics under consideration. Luis Carlos Wall was in charge of this session.

A rural pastor, the Rev. Joaquim Bento, introduced the section on rural life. Technical development and illiteracy were primary concerns in this area. As in all other discussions at Campinas conference, the role of the church in facing rapid social change and the relevancy of the Bible to the modern world were discussed. Dr. Marcos Martins held of UNESCO efforts in giving technical training.

"The Political and Social Implications of Christian Love" was the subject of the evening address by the Rev. Richard Shaull, who is general secretary of the Brazilian Student Christian Movement. The Rev. Jacques Maury of France, discussed the church and problems of rapid social change. Mr. Maury was touring Latin America as a member of the commission jointly been of the World Council of Churches and the World Council of Christian Education. Conference delegates who came from many parts of Brazil urged that further such meetings be held in other parts of the country.

E.P.S., Geneva

GERMANY

Christian Approach to Communism

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section of Christendom today was living under bolshevik rule. Although the Christian churches behind the iron curtain should not regard themselves as a "fifth column" of Western life, they should receive help from the churches in the West through intercession, through exact information aboutthe situation in the West, and through the exchange of visits.

"The next question which Christians should ask should be: what have we to give to the communists? The Lord of the Church sent out his disciples with his message like sheep among wolves. The Christian message was also intended for the salvation of the wolves. The spirit of Christ could also turn wolves into human beings who are children of God. The Christian Church was called and equipped to deal even with wolves - instead of either howling with them or destroying them. The only attack which is not defensive and which is not based on fear is the attack with the Christian message," said Professor Gollwitzer. E.P.S., Geneva

CANADA

Moral Factors in International Affairs

(Toronto) - Leaders in government and the United Nations "are seeking to utilize moral force for the solution of the problems which confront the world," Dr. O. Frederick Nolde said in Toronto, Canada, Feb. 28.

Although the development should be encouraged, there are dangers and pitfalls in the wide use of the term "moral force" according to Dr. Nolde, director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. The CCIA is a joint enterprise of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.

In an address before the annual meeting of the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada, he said that one danger was the "assumption that solution of international problems can be found solely in moral principles. In most instances effective solutions call for technical and political arrangements which provide primarily direction and motivation."

Ivory tower indulgence and recourse to morality "as a cloak to defend selfish interests" were listed as pitfalls along with the confusion of "a moral position and a moral force." He cautioned against "oversimplification or falsification by classifying issues and actors as right or wrong." He said, "Rarely can one side be designated as completely right and the other as completely wrong, and responsibility must be in proportion to the relative guilt of each party."

Despite his reference to the dangers, Dr. Nolde, an associate general secretary of the World Council of Churches, said he did not minimize the importance of moral factors themselves nor "of the specific action by which they are made operative."

He offered suggestions for clarification. "In any given problem international decisions should be taken and solutions proposed with a view to meeting the demands of justice in the immediate situation and contributing to an international order where justice can more readily be served in the future."

World opinion does not necessarily mean moral force, he explained. "There may be a dominant world public opinion in support of a position which is not characterized by moral substance and, in such an instance, it is a misnomer to speak of a moral force."

Hungary and the Middle East

Answering the question, in regard to Hungary, of whether the UN action was right, Dr. Nolde said "I am inclined to say 'yes' even though the immediate results were far from satisfactory and the ultimate effect cannot be forecast."

"The situation in the countries dominated by Soviet communism is no longer as frozen as it previously was. There are stirrings in these countries and in Russia, which by peaceful and reasonable maturing, can in due course give rise to greater freedom. The USSR by virtue of its refusal to comply with the decisions of the United Nations, unquestionably suffered a reversal in its effort to win the support of the uncommitted new nations."

From this reversal, it can recover only by conforming its subsequent actions, both in Hungary and elsewhere, to the requirements of "an emerging international conscience,"

nation of Christendom today was living under totalitarian rule. Although the Christian churches behind the iron curtain should not regard themselves as a "fifth column" of Western life, they should receive help from the churches in the West through information, through exact information about the situation in the West, and through the exchange of visits.

"The next question which Christians should ask should be: what have we to give to the Communist? The Lord of the Church sent out His disciples with His message like sheep among wolves. The Christian message was also intended for the salvation of the wolves. The spirit of Christ could also turn wolves into human beings who are children of God. The Christian Church was called and equipped to deal even with wolves - instead of either howling with them or destroying them. The only attack which is not destructive and which is not based on fear is the attack with the Christian message," said Professor Dellwitzer.

E.P.S., Geneva

CANADA

Moral Resources in International Affairs

(Toronto) - Leaders in government and the United Nations "are seeking to utilize moral force for the solution of the problems which confront the world," Dr. G. Frederick Wade said in Toronto, Canada, Feb. 28.

Although the development should be encouraged, there are dangers and pitfalls in the wide use of the term "moral force" according to Dr. Wade, director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. The CCIA is a joint enterprise of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.

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Ivory tower indifference and recourse to morality "as a cloak to defend selfish interests" were listed as pitfalls along with the contention of "a moral position and a moral force." He cautioned against "overzealous attitudes or faulty application by classifying causes and actors as right or wrong," he said. "Rarely can one side be designated as completely right and the other as completely wrong, and responsibility must be in proportion to the relative guilt of each party."

Despite his reference to the dangers, Dr. Wade, an associate general secretary of the World Council of Churches, said he did not minimize the importance of moral factors themselves nor "of the specific action by which they are made operative."

He offered suggestions for clarification. "In any given problem international organizations should do their own and solutions proposed with a view to meeting the demands of justice in the immediate situation and contributing to an international order where justice can more readily be served in the future."

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"The situation in the countries dominated by Soviet communism is no longer as frozen as it previously was. There are stirrings in these countries and in Russia, which by careful and reasonable maneuvering, can in due course give rise to greater freedom. The USSR by virtue of its refusal to comply with the decisions of the United Nations, unquestionably suffered a reversal in its efforts to win the support of the uncommitted nations."

From this reversal, it can recover only by conforming the subsequent actions, both Hungary and elsewhere, to the requirements of her membership in the United Nations.

On the subject of the Middle East, Dr. Nolde said "Whatever immediate hardships are suffered and difficulties encountered I believe that the withdrawal of troops from Egypt by the United Kingdom and France in conformity with the United Nations action will go down in history as a significant step in building a responsible world community of law and order."

He added that he felt the UN action incomplete "as to its moral substance and its moral force," if it does not "promptly and diligently move to the solution of the problems which have provoked the Middle East crisis and to the development of instruments for peaceful settlement and peaceful changes."

Dr. Nolde said he felt Israel should withdraw from the territory occupied by military action and that this would in the long run carry fewer risks and win more widespread support for that nation.

"The international community should more persistently and effectively assist in bringing about peaceful settlement and peaceful change in order to provide viable alternatives to the pursuit of claims by military means which in an atomic age imperil the whole family upon earth," he said. E.P.S., Geneva

WSCF Clarifies Hungarian Student Committee Issue

The World's Student Christian Federation has issued a statement to its member movements clarifying some of the issues that resulted in the dissolution of the Coordinating Committee for International Aid to Hungarian Refugee Students. The committee was formed in November as a joint endeavour of COSEC (Coordinating Secretariat of National Unions of Students), World University Service and the Austrian National Union of Students. In the next two months, 4,000 of 6,000 refugee students were helped to emigrate.

However, the WSCF says, in January the Austrian National Union of Students designated new representatives to the Coordinating Committee who took stands creating numerous obstacles to joint action. To the press, the World University Service described the difficulty as follows:

"The main source of all these difficulties is to be traced to a divergence in the interpretation of the legal status of the committee. The Austrian N.U.S. insisted that since it alone was subject to Austrian law, it had the right to veto any decision of the Coordinating Committee that did not conform with its wishes. WUS and COSEC could accept neither this position nor the argument on which it was based. Actually, certain projects of the Austrian N.U.S. concerning immediate assistance to Hungarian refugee students appeared in effect to prejudice the interests of these students and hinder endeavors being made toward enabling them to emigrate. In this situation, COSEC and WUS retained the complete confidence and support of representatives of governmental and non-governmental international organizations working for refugee students in Austria.

"WUS and COSEC tried to reassure the Austrian N.U.S. by offering certain legal guarantees and suggesting a new basis of work and cooperation which was also inspired largely by decisions taken on November 11 in establishing the Coordinating Committee. Since this proposal was refused, there was no alternative to terminating the Coordinating Committee and this was done on February 9, 1957. WUS then decided to establish a Field Office in Vienna which, with the support of COSEC, would assume the responsibilities and tasks of the former Coordinating Committee."

The question of improper accounting was also raised by the Austrian N.U.S., and World University Service made the following report:

"At the end of January, the accounts of the Committee were audited by a chartered accountant and certified to be correct and in order to the full satisfaction of the auditor. Here also, difficulties encountered arise neither from the manner of keeping accounts nor from any lack of integrity in the representatives of COSEC or WUS, but from the unfortunately disruptive attitude of the Austrian N.U.S., which refused to be bound by majority decisions of the Committee in financial matters as well."

Alice Otterness, WSCF secretary, says that the work of processing refugee students is continuing and has not been greatly affected. WUS has established a field office in Vienna, together with COSEC, carrying out the functions and activities of the former Coordinating Committee. The Federation, the governmental and non-governmental organizations working for refugee students in Austria and the Hungarian refugee students themselves have confidence in WUS, according to Miss Otterness. E.P.S., Geneva

On the outlook of the Middle East, Dr. Mende said "Whatever immediate desirable one offers and difficulties encountered I believe that the withdrawal of troops from Egypt by the United Kingdom and France in conformity with the United Nations action will go down in history as a significant step in instituting a responsible world community of law and order."

He added that in fact the UN action procedure "as to its moral substance and its moral force," if it does not "promptly and diligently move to the solution of the problems which have provoked the Middle East crisis and to the development of instruments for peaceful settlement and peaceful changes."

Dr. Mende said he felt Israel should withdraw from the territory occupied by military action and that this would in the long run serve Israel's rights and will have widespread support for that nation.

"The international community should more purposefully and effectively insist in bringing about peaceful settlement and peaceful change in order to provide viable alternatives to the pursuit of claims by military means which in an atomic age imperil the whole family upon earth," he said.

E.S.G., Geneva

WSCF Clarifies European Student Commission Issue

The World's Student Christian Federation has issued a statement to its member movements clarifying some of the issues that remained in the dissolution of the Coordinating Committee for International Aid to European Student Citizenship. The committee was formed in November as a joint endeavour of CUSEC (Overseas Cooperation of National Unions of Students), World University Service and the American National Union of Students. In the next two months, 1,000 of 6,000 refugee students were helped in emigration.

However, the WSCF says, in January the American National Union of Students withdrew its representatives to the Coordinating Committee and took steps creating misunderstanding decisive to joint action. To the press, the World University Service described the situation as follows:

"The main source of all these difficulties is to be traced to a disagreement in the interpretation of the legal status of the committee. The Austrian S.U.S. insisted that since it alone was subject to Austrian law, it had the right to vote any decision of the Coordinating Committee that did not conform with its wishes. WUS and CUSEC could accept neither this position nor the argument on which it was based. Actually, private projects of the Austrian N.U.S. concerning immediate assistance to European refugee students appeared in effect to prejudice the interests of these students and honest endeavours being made toward amalgamating them to emigrate. In this situation, CUSEC and WUS retained the complete moral support of representatives of governmental and non-governmental international organizations working for refugee students in Austria.

"WUS and CUSEC tried to remedy the Austrian N.U.S. by effecting certain legal guarantees and suggesting a new basis of work and cooperation which was also inspired strongly by decisions taken on November 11 in establishing the Coordinating Committee. Some this proposal was refused, there was no alternative to terminating the Coordinating Committee and this was done on February 21, 1957. WUS then decided to establish a field office in Vienna which, with the support of CUSEC, would assume the responsibilities and tasks of the former Coordinating Committee."

The question of improper accounting was also raised by the Austrian N.U.S., and World University Service made the following report:

"At the end of January, the accounts of the Committee were audited by a chartered accountant and certified to be correct and in order in the full satisfaction of the auditor. There also, difficulties unconnected arise neither from the amount of money accounts nor from any lack of integrity in the representatives of CUSEC or WUS, but from the unfortunately disruptive attitude of the Austrian N.U.S., which refuses to be bound by the majority decisions of the Committee in financial matters as well."

Alice Ostermann, WSCF secretary, says that the work of processing refugee students in the community and has not been greatly affected. WUS has established a field office in Vienna, together with CUSEC, carrying out the functions and activities of the former Coordinating Committee. The Federation, the governmental and non-governmental organizations for refugee students in Austria and the European Refugee Students Service are

UNITED STATES Ecumenical Youth Team Report

(New York) - Through lack of comprehension and understanding of Latin American churches, the ecumenical movement has neglected a significant part of the Church of Christ, the Rev. Bengt-Thure Molander, head of the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches says.

"The World Council of Churches is only beginning to count with the the Protestant churches in Latin America as one of the vital elements in the Church of today," says Mr. Molander who has just returned from leading an ecumenical youth team on a three-month tour of Latin America from Mexico to Argentina. The team was sponsored by the WCC and the World Council of Christian Education. "In our ecumenical conversations we have yet to discover the evangelical churches in South America."

Latin American churches have much to contribute to the ecumenical movement because "they have in acute way all the issues with which we are concerned--church and society, evangelism, faith and order--and their efforts to solve these issues put new light on them for all of us."

"The future of this continent is still to be determined," he said. "Churches there need the world-wide approach in their relationships to their problems. South America, for example, shares many problems with Europe, Asia, and Africa and all can learn from each other."

Mr. Molander estimates that in their fourteen nation tour the members of the ecumenical youth team, which had representatives of France, Canada, India, and the U.S.A., made about 500 addresses in five languages and came in contact with thousands of Latin American young people. In a report to the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America of the Division of Foreign Missions, National Council of Churches, in New York, March 4, he told of participation in forty-two youth rallies, six youth leadership training institutes, visits with seven theological seminaries, seven confederations of churches, and numbers of meetings, preaching services, and encounters with student groups.

On the participation of the Protestant minority churches in world-wide cooperative Christian movements, Mr. Molander said the primary need was for "objective information about churches around the world and their cooperative efforts." This material should be in Spanish and Portuguese and should "simply report the truth about these movements." Misconceptions are prevelant in most countries due to the successful efforts of opponents of ecumenicity to discredit it, he said.

Local parish life of churches in a minority situation is strong in a sense of fellowship, participation of laity, personal commitment, and enthusiasm. Although there is a "certain isolation between Protestant groups in various countries," there is the great potentiality of lack of language barriers.

Commenting on the interdenominational youth federation meeting in Baranquilla, Colombia, Mr. Molander said that the government ban on Protestant mission activity did not prevent the December meeting, he did not see any change in the policy of the government. "The political problems and the religious persecution are still there, worse than in Spain. But there is more hope for the future of the Evangelical Church in Colombia than in Spain. Colombia is still in a revolutionary turmoil, a state of seige."

At a press conference in New York, Mr. Molander was joined by Charles Boyles, Jackson, Miss. Ten members of a United Christian Youth Movement team, led by Mr. Boyles, also attended the Baranquilla conference. Young people from twenty nations were present there.

"There is a growing awareness within the younger generation of Protestant churches in the area of their role in the realization of a responsible society and their role in the Church," Mr. Boyles said.

Among interesting church projects mentioned by Mr. Molander was the group of Brazilian students living and working in Sao Paulo in a factory district somewhat along French "worker priest" lines. He mentioned the work of rural missions sponsored by U.S. and Canadian churches in raising living standards in many areas.

Extending leadership training, acknowledgement of the force of Protestantism in Latin America, strengthening theological education, and making literature about other churches in the world available in Spanish and Portuguese were cited by Mr. Molander as ways to assist churches there.

Members of the ecumenical youth team will address a city-wide youth rally at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Harlem, Tuesday, March 5, under the sponsorship of the Manhattan Division, Protestant Council of New York. E.P.S., Geneva

UNITED STATES

U.S. State Department Opposes Clergymen's Visit to China

The U.S. State Department has indicated it would disapprove a proposal that a group of American clergymen visit China. In answering a letter from Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, secretary of public affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals, the State Department thanked the NAE for its "efforts to discourage travel by American citizens to the Communist-controlled mainland of China under existing circumstances."

During a December meeting of the National Council of Churches' Division of Home Missions and of Christian Life and Work, one of fifteen discussion groups recommended that the council "undertake to establish direct lines of contact between the churches in America and the churches in China." The report was referred to the NCC's Department of International Affairs, and no action at all has been taken. E.P.S., Geneva

UNITED STATES

ELC and WCC Membership

(Minneapolis, Minn.) - The Evangelical Lutheran Church has applied for immediate membership in the World Council of Churches, following action by its Church Council during its annual meeting here.

The Church Council, acting on a directive from the ELC's General Convention last June, authorized the Church's president, Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, "to take the necessary steps" to seek WCC membership "on a confessional basis."

In complete reversal of form over its 1948 convention, which voted, 872-546, against WCC membership, the ELC last June balloted, 1,434-685, to seek "immediate" membership in the world church group. This action removed a final major obstacle to the planned 1960 merger of the ELC (1,004,239 members) with the American Lutheran Church (899,078) and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (59,832) both of whom had previously been WCC members. The Evangelical Lutheran application will be presented at the annual meeting of the WCC's Central Committee at New Haven, Conn., in August.

U.S. Lutheran groups which are now World Council members include: American Evangelical Lutheran Church, American Lutheran Church, Augustana Lutheran Church, United Evangelical Lutheran Church and United Lutheran Church in America.

In anticipation of acceptance of the ELC's membership application, the Church Council announced appointment of six ELC leaders to serve as delegates to the WCC's North American Study Conference, scheduled for Oberlin, Ohio, September 3-10.
E.P.S., Geneva

POLAND

News of the Lutheran Church

The Synod of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Poland, recently held in Warsaw, requested 73-year-old Bishop Kotula to continue in office for two more years. The Bishop has consented. For many years Bishop Kotula was in charge of the Polish Protestant church in Lodz. During the second World War he worked on a farm in his native district of Tesch, and returned to Lodz in 1945. In 1951 he was elected by the Synod.

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The theological Academy in Warsaw, at which the Protestant pastors in Poland are trained, has received twenty-six applications for the new academic year. Last year the Academy was attended by forty-five students. The languages taught include German and Russian, in addition to Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

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The leaders of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Poland have requested the government in Warsaw to restore the churches, vicarages and other church property which it had confiscated from the Protestant churches in East Prussia, and also to help them to rebuild the church buildings which were destroyed or damaged. The petition signed by the

[illegible] Department will address a luncheon meeting [illegible] on Tuesday, March 3, under the auspices of the Foreign Relations Council of New York.

F.P.C., Dec.

State Department has published it would disapprove a proposed [illegible] public affairs for the Office of [illegible]

At a December meeting of the Foreign Relations Council of Cincinnati [illegible] council undertook to examine [illegible]

[illegible] Council of Cincinnati [illegible] Foreign Relations Council during the [illegible] year.

Foreign Council, [illegible]

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patriotic. A commission consisting of representatives of the party, the government, the Sejm parliament and the church should be set up to consider these tasks, it is stated in the petition.

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Before the second World War there were 600,000 Lutherans in Poland. Today there are only about 180,000 Polish Lutherans and about 40,000 of German origin, living in the six districts in Masuren (East Prussia), Pomerania and Great-Poland, Warsaw, Stalinograd (Kattowitz), Czescyn (Teschen) and Breslau. The Lutheran Church has 106 pastors, but this number is very inadequate, and each pastor has to look after several congregations.

Throughout the whole of Poland there are about 400 buildings belonging to the Protestant Church. Five churches have been rebuilt since the war and many others restored.

The congregations are impoverished, but they make generous sacrifices for the work of the Church. A great interest is shown by the young people. Confirmation classes are held without much difficulty, because the young people are eager to participate in instruction on the Christian faith.

The social work done by the Church is confined to a few institutions, but it may increase. Some of the church institutions in Poland are managed by deaconesses (see EPS No. 37, 1956). There is a great lack of theological books and of practical material for church work and Sunday school teaching. The Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches are able to send church literature from Geneva to Poland.

E.P.S., Geneva

CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czech Churches Observe Moravians' 500th Anniversary

(Prague) - Because many Protestant churches in Czechoslovakia regard themselves as the spiritual heirs of the Moravian Brethren, they are making special plans to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the church this year. The famous reform movement began in Kunvald, Czechoslovakia.

During the year the Czech churches are publishing a volume called "The Unita Fratrum in Pictures", holding an anniversary Synod meeting and sponsoring a travelling exhibition. The Czech churches will also issue souvenir medals, hold special meetings and divine services in all their churches and during March join the world-wide Chain of Prayer for Peace. The prayer movement is arranged by the Moravians to mark their 500th anniversary. (See EPS No. 3).

Bishop Karl Reichel, president of the Inner Council of the Moravian Church, regards the quincentenary as a chance to establish a still more profound and genuine unity among Reformation churches. The bishop calls for "living cooperation and mutual loving service to others." According to Bishop Reichel, the special task of the Moravian Church today is to be a bridge between churches and an aid in making the unity of Christians more apparent.

The Ecumenical Council of Churches in Czechoslovakia has issued a message, acknowledging that as the spiritual heir of the great Christians who founded the Bohemian Brethren, it is responsible, in accordance with Holy Scripture, "to be obedient solely to its Lord Jesus Christ, in the freedom of faith, ever anew, in any place and under any circumstances."

E.P.S., Geneva

UNITED STATES — National Council Honors Moravians

(Williamsburg, Va.) - The National Council of Churches at its General Board meeting in Williamsburg, Va., honored the Moravian Church on the eve of its 500th birthday.

Leaders of the Moravian churches which are members of the National Council--the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) and the Evangelical Unity of the Czech-Moravian Brethren in North America--were special guests of the General Board.

After hearing from leaders of the Moravian churches, Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz, secretary of the United Lutheran Church, spoke in behalf of the National Council. He said that the emphasis on Moravian traditions and the observance of the celebration at the meeting was "to summon a member church afresh to its holiest heritage and highest

A message from the National Council read by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, president, paid tribute to the "challenge and inspiration" provided by the example of Protestant leader Jan Hus across the centuries.

Principal American observance of the anniversary took place at Bethlehem, Pa., where Dr. Charles Ranson, International Missionary Council general secretary, was speaker at the Moravian College on March 3. Other services were held in North Carolina, Texas, the western part of the United States and in mission territories from Alaska to Tibet.

E.P.S., Geneva

AUSTRALIA

Australian Church Groups Ask Aid for Aborigines

Two church groups in Australia have asked the government for help for primitive native tribes living in the remote interior of Western Australia and reported to be leading a stone-age existence.

The Australian Committee for the World Council of Churches has asked the federal government to make funds available to the Western Australia state government for a program of welfare work among the aborigines.

The Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions has suggested that the state of South Australia, adjoining the territory, establish a large cattle station to provide for the desert tribes. Church officials have agreed to provide trained personnel to supervise the station, which would be organized as a mission center.

The aborigines are said to be among the most primitive people in the world, wandering over the desert in search of game and water. A recent report to the state parliament of Western Australia outlined the plight of the tribes, saying that as a result of white encroachment on their reserves, the tribes have been reduced to semi-starvation. Also, the report said, scientists working on guided missiles have penetrated their lands. Fearing to make contact with the white man, the tribes have withdrawn into the most barren areas. Without proper medical treatment even the most simple ailments caused them great pain and even death.

E.P.S., Geneva

The Student World

The most recent issue of the Student World (I, 1957), magazine of the World's Student Christian Federation, is based on the WSCF General Committee which met last August in Tutzing, Germany. The editorial by Philippe Maury, Federation general secretary, gives a general review of this triennial meeting, which elects officers and Executive Committee members and plans the work of the organization for the coming three years. This is followed by the three addresses which were related to the General Committee theme, "Jesus Christ the Reconciler". The addresses are: "The Contradictions of Reconciliation", by M. Francis Jeanson, a French existentialist writer and a non-Christian; "Jesus Christ the Reconciler" by Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, and "Africa's Hopes and Reconciliation" by Mrs. Rena Karefa-Smart, of Sierra Leone, a vice-chairman of the Federation. Included also are the sermon preached at the closing service of the General Committee by WSCF chairman D. T. Niles, an address on "The Church in China Today" by Bishop K. H. Ting, president of Nanking Theological Seminary, and a contribution to the discussion of the report of the Commission on Holy Living, by Father Jean de la Croix Kaelin, O.P., fraternal delegate from Pax Romana, Catholic organization of university students and intellectuals.

This number also contains among other articles a tribute to Ruth Rouse by Suzanne Bidgrain, a former Federation secretary, and a report by Alice Otterness, WSCF secretary, on her contacts with Hungarian students in Austria.

E.P.S., Geneva

In Brief

Dr. Edgar Chandler, director of Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches, has been elected president of the Standing Conference of Voluntary Agencies working with the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees. Dr. Chandler will hold office for a two-year term.

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The work program issue of the Ecumenical World (1, 1957), magazine of the World's Student Christian Federation, is based on the work General Committee which met last August in Tutzing, Germany. The editorial by Christine Maury, Federation general secretary, gives a general review of this triennial meeting, which elects officers and Executive Committee members and plans the work of the organization for the coming three years. This is followed by the three addresses which were related to the General Committee theme, "Jesus Christ the Reconciler". The addresses are: "The Contradictions of Reconciliation", by H. Francis Lessman, a French sociopsychiatrist writer and a non-Christian; "Jesus Christ the Reconciler" by Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, and "Africa's Human and Reconciliation" by Mrs. Anna Kwaku-Sarbah, of Ghana, a vice-president of the Federation. Included also are the sermon preached at the closing service of the General Committee by WSCF chaplain D. T. Niles, an address on "The Church in China Today" by Stanley K. H. Tung, president of Nanking Theological Seminary, and a contribution to the discussion of the report of the Commission on Holy Living, "Rather Less in Is Greater Quality", Christian delegate from Kansas, Catholic organization of university students and intellectuals.

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A two-year world survey of Christian foreign missions literature has been started by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Miss Marion Van Horne, former youth director of the Reformed Church in America, has been appointed director and will serve as associate secretary of the NCC's Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature.

Miss Van Horne will travel widely abroad to study mass circulation publications supported by thirty-nine Protestant boards and agencies cooperating in the committee's work. Particularly close study will be given to magazines published overseas with U.S. church support.

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A Church and Society Circle has been formed officially in Athens with theological Professor Panayotis Bratsiotis as chairman. Members include the Rector of Athens University and Stephanos Stephanopoulos and Panayotis Kanellopoulos, both civic leaders. The most recent meeting was attended by His Beatitude the Archbishop of Athens and of all Greece, Monseigneur Dorotheus, who blessed the Church and Society Circle and praised its work and aims.

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Representatives of the World Alliance of YMCAs, the World YWCA, the World Council of Churches, the World Council of Christian Education and the World's Student Christian Federation, held a consultation from February 11-13 in Nyon, Switzerland. Purpose was to provide an opportunity to discuss common evangelistic and ecumenical responsibilities.

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Professor Walter Freytag, president of the German Protestant Missionary Council and Professor for Missions and Ecumenical Inter-Church Relationships at Hamburg University, is at present on a study tour in South Asia; he will also visit China. He recently received an invitation from Bishop Ting, the Anglican Bishop of Nanking, to lecture as a guest at the Theological College in Nanking and to visit some of the churches in China. Professor Freytag is chairman of the Division of Studies of the World Council of Churches and of the International Missionary Council.

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The Japan Bible Society is trying to find and train forty colporteurs to help achieve the goal of two million sales of Bibles or portions during 1957. In addition to colporteurs, the society plans to secure the cooperation of 500 stores throughout the country to handle Bible sales.

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A Lutheran pastor in Copenhagen has increased attendance at weekday evening services in his church by eliminating the usual sermon and showing religious films instead. The crowds at St. Paul's Church were disappointingly small before the Rev. Martin Jorgensen was given permission to try the films.

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A Rumanian edition of "A History of the Ecumenical Movement", edited by Ruth Rouse and Stephen C. Neill, will be published under the patronage of the Patriarch Justinian and under the direction of Professor Vintila Popescu of the Orthodox Theological Faculty of Bucharest. "This book," said one Rumanian priest, "is more than an academic church history. For us it is a kind of communion with Christians of other lands and churches."

The first half of the German edition of the history will be published during the present year by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Verlag of Göttingen. Translating and editorial work was begun by the late Dr. Wilhelm Menn of the Ecumenical Center in Frankfurt, and is being continued by his successor, Dr. Hanfred Krüger.

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"Inner Mission" and "Hilfswerk", the two large organizations carrying on social work within the German Evangelical churches are to be amalgamated. Hilfswerk was founded after the war in 1945 by Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, now president of the German Bundestag. The "Inner Mission" is more than a hundred years old.

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